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General Assembly
Seventy-first session

Official Records

First Committee
27th meeting
Wednesday, 31 May 2017, 11.25 a.m.
New York

Chair: Mr. Boukadoum ..... (Algeria)

The meeting was called to order at 11.25 a.m.

Agenda item 5

Election of the officers of the Main Committees

Election of the Chair and the Bureau of the First Committee

The Chair: In accordance with rules 99 (a) and 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, this meeting has been convened to elect the Chair and other officers of the First Committee for the seventy-second session of the General Assembly.

We shall first take up the election of the Chair of the First Committee for the forthcoming seventy-second session. Members will recall that, pursuant to decision 68/505, of 1 October 2013, the Chair of the Committee is to be nominated by the Group of Asia-Pacific States. In that regard, I understand that an agreement has been reached by the Group to nominate His Excellency Ambassador Mouayed Saleh of the Republic of Iraq for the post of Chair for the seventy-second session.

Ambassador Mouayed Saleh is the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva and to the Conference on Disarmament. He also served as Vice-President of the tenth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and as Vice-President of the eighth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention.

Prior to his appointment to Geneva, Ambassador Saleh served as Iraq's Ambassador to Australia, starting in 2010. He was concurrently non-resident Ambassador of Iraq to Fiji in 2015 and non-resident Ambassador of Iraq to New Zealand from 2011 to 2015. He served as Director-General for Foreign Relations and Political Affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister of Iraq in 2009 and as an adviser on foreign relations in the same Office from 2007 to 2009. From 1989 to 2007, Mr. Saleh worked in the private sector in the United States of America as an electronics engineer. He joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 2009. Mr. Saleh has a Master's degree in engineering from Arizona State University in the United States and a Bachelor's degree in electronics engineering from the State University of New York, Buffalo, New York state, United States.

Since there are no other nominations from the Group of Asia-Pacific States, may I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and established practice, the First Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to elect by acclamation Ambassador Mouayed Saleh of the Republic of Iraq as the Chair of the First Committee for the seventy-second session of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

The Chair: On behalf of all delegations, I warmly congratulate Ambassador Saleh on his election. I am certain that he will receive the support and cooperation of each and every delegation in executing his mandate to guide the work of the seventy-second session of the First Committee.

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We will now proceed with the election of other officers of the First Committee for the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, beginning with the three Vice-Chairs. It is my pleasure to present to the Committee the following nominations: for the Group of Eastern European States, Ms. Terje Raadik of Estonia; for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Mr. Alfredo Fernando Toro-Carnevali of Venezuela; and for the Group of Western European and other States, Mr. Georg Sparber of Liechtenstein.

Bearing in mind that the candidates for the position of Vice-Chair have been endorsed by their respective regional groups, may I take it that the Committee wishes to elect them by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The Chair: With respect to the position of Rapporteur, Mr. Martin Eric Sipho Ngundze of South Africa has been nominated by the Group of African States. May I take it that the Committee wishes to elect him by acclamation as the Rapporteur of the First Committee at its seventy-second session?

It was so decided.

The Chair: Please allow me to express, on behalf of the Committee, warm congratulations to Ms. Terje Raadik of Estonia, Mr. Alfredo Fernando Toro-Carnevali of Venezuela and Mr. Georg Sparber of Liechtenstein on their election as Vice-Chairs, and to Mr. Martin Eric Sipho Ngundze of South Africa on his election as Rapporteur of the First Committee.

Before adjourning this meeting, I would like to thank, on behalf of all delegations, the members of the Bureau of the seventy-first session of the Committee: the Vice-Chairs — Mr. Kamapradipta Isnomo of Indonesia, Mr. René Zelený of the Czech Republic and Ms. María Soledad Urruela Arenales of Guatemala — and the Rapporteur, Mr. Darren Hansen of Australia, for their remarkable contribution in guiding the work of the Committee to a successful conclusion. I would like also to use this opportunity to extend heartfelt thanks once again to all delegations for their support and cooperation throughout my tenure as the Chair of the First Committee at its seventy-first session.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.